VIZ media
shōjo

RED RIVER

11

story and art by **Chie Shinohara**

RED RIVER™

11

RED RIVER™

vol.11

Yuri is a typical junior high student until she's sucked into a puddle and emerges in the ancient Hittite Empire! Evil Queen Nakia has drawn Yuri across time and space to be a sacrifice to her god, Teshub. Rescued by the handsome but arrogant Prince Kail, who wishes to have her as his concubine, Yuri soon learns that returning home requires three things: the help of a sorcerer equal to the queen—which Prince Kail happens to be; Hattusa's seven springs must all fill with water; and she must be in the clothes she wore when she was kidnapped.

In an attempt to recover her clothes, Yuri makes her way into the queen's palace with Kail's young servant Tito at her side. But they walk into a trap, and Tito is killed after saving Yuri's life. When the opportunity finally arrives for Yuri to go home, she refuses, vowing to stay until she has seen Tito avenged. Meanwhile, the Hittites have come to adore Yuri as the incarnation of the goddess Ishtar, and Yuri becomes aware of Prince Kail's dream of creating an empire of justice.

With the passing of the aged Hittite king, Kail's older brother assumes the throne. Though both Prince Kail and Queen Nakia's son, Juda, are nominated to become the crown prince, Kail attains the office through the overwhelming acclaim and support of the people of the Hittite Empire.

Queen Nakia orders her aide, Urhi, to assassinate the new Hittite king. Urhi succeeds, and Nakia accuses Yuri of the crime. To the queen's surprise, Juda bears witness to Yuri's innocence, so Nakia takes magical control of her son and directs him to give false testimony before the senate. To protect Yuri, Kail sends her to Alinna, home of the tribe of Yuri's loyal maidservants. Queen Nakia is not about to let that stop her, and soon her private army is on its way to Alinna to capture Yuri.

Story Thus Far:

Prince Kail
A Hittite royal prince, general, and priest-sorcerer.

Yuri
A Japanese schoolgirl magically transported to the ancient Hittite Empire.

Queen Nakia
Kail's stepmother, an evil sorceress determined to see her own son on the Hittite throne.

PLEASE DON'T GO, PRINCESS YURI. IT IS TOO DANGER-OUS TO GO OUT NOW.
WE ARE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S TROOPS.
BESIDES, YOU SHOULDN'T RETURN TO HATTUSA UNTIL YOU ARE CLEARED OF THE ASSASSINATION CHARGES.
RUSAFA'S RIGHT.
PLEASE STAY INSIDE THIS RESIDENTIAL QUARTER.
I PROMISE WE'LL PROTECT YOU FROM THOSE SOLDIERS.

LOOK.
RUSAFA.
HADI.
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE WRONG.
HUH?
SET FIRE TO THE HATTI'S RESIDENTIAL QUARTER!
LET'S SMOKE OUT ISHTAR!

RAAAAH
THE HATTIS ARE ALSO GUILTY BECAUSE THEY'RE HARBORING THE KING'S ASSASSIN. YOU ARE FREE TO BURN THEM TO DEATH!
HE WHO BEHEADS ISHTAR..
...WILL RECEIVE A RICH REWARD FROM THE QUEEN DOWAGER!
AAAAH
MY DAUGHTER'S RIGHT. WE'VE SWORN OUR LOYALTY TO YOU.
DON'T GO, PRINCESS YURI!
EVEN OUR CHILDREN WON'T HESITATE TO SACRIFICE...
...THEIR LIVES TO PROTECT YOU, PRINCESS YURI.
BURN US TO DEATH?
URHI!
THEY WON'T SET FIRE TO THIS PLACE IF I LEAVE, RIGHT?
IT'S ME THE QUEEN DOWAGER WANTS.

IF YOU REALLY RESPECT ME, PLEASE PROMISE ...
...THAT YOU WILL SAFEGUARD THE KNOWLEDGE OF IRON MAKING FOR PRINCE KAIL.
PRINCESS YURI!
I CAN'T LET YOUR TRIBE PERISH FOR ME.
BUT I KNOW IRON IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE HITTITE EMPIRE AND ONLY YOUR PEOPLE CAN PRODUCE IT.
THANK YOU, TALOS.
PRINCESS YURI!
I CAN FIND MY OWN WAY OUT, DON'T WORRY!

...THEIR SHEER NUMBERS HAVE CUT OFF ALL AVENUES OF ESCAPE.
THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S PRIVATE SOLDIERS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN SCOUNDRELS, BUT...
SEE? WE'RE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED.
DON'T LET ISHTAR GET AWAY!
SET THE FIRES! HURRY!

WHY DON'T WE GO AFTER URHI?
THOSE SOLDIERS ARE RIFF-RAFF, RIGHT?
THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO ACT EFFECTIVELY ONCE THEY LOSE THEIR LEADER, WILL THEY?
CURSE YOU, URHI!
HE TALKS TOUGH, BUT HE'S KEEPING SAFELY OUT OF HARMS WAY.
RUSAFA.
I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T. HE'S STAYING BACK...
...WHERE THE ROCKS FROM OUR SLINGS WON'T BE ABLE TO REACH HIM.
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GET HIM?
YOU ARE THE COMMANDER OF ARCHERS, RIGHT?
I WAS TOLD YOU'RE THE BEST ARCHER IN THE HITTITE EMPIRE.

PRINCESS YURI.
IF THE SOLDIERS SEE THAT YOU CAN HIT URH! FROM HERE, THEY WILL PANIC.
IF THEY PANIC, I WILL BE ABLE TO FIND A WAY OUT.
WHISK
TALOS...
...DO YOU HAVE A BOW STRONG ENOUGH FOR THIS?
WELL, WE HAVE A CEREMONIAL BOW THAT REQUIRES THREE MEN TO PULL.
CAN YOU HANDLE IT?
IT'S AN ORDER FROM PRINCESS YURI.
HOW CAN I REFUSE?
THANKS ...
...YOU GUYS.

HAND IT TO ME!
HMM...
CHIEF, HERE'S THE BOW.
SQUEAK
RUSAFA...
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK

HE'S PULLED IT!
CREAK

URHI...
...SHALL YOU SHED YOUR OWN BLOOD...
...INSTEAD OF ALWAYS SENDING OTHERS TO SHED THEIRS?
ALL RIGHT. THROW A FLAMING ARROW...

THUD
DRIP
DRIP
UGH...
MY EYE...
MY EYE!

MURMUR-MURMUR
WHAT?
THEY GOT HIM FROM THAT FAR AWAY?
M... MASTER URHI'S BEEN SHOT!
Did you ever doubt it?
CLAP CLAP
FANTASTIC, RUSAFA! YOU REALLY ARE OUR TOP BOWMAN!
CLAP
THE SOLDIERS ARE IN TOTAL DISARRAY!
OPEN THE GATE!
BANG

TA-RUMP
GO IN ALL DIRECTIONS TO CONFUSE THEM!
YOU GUYS GO, TOO!
KLAK~
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
WH... WHICH ONE IS ISHTAR?
AAA!
WHAT'S GOING ON?

THE HORSE... WITH THE BLUE MANE... MUST BE HER!
FORGET THE OTHERS! GO AFTER ISHTAR!
UH OH!

HATTUSA
PRINCE KAIL!
THE TWINS HAVE RETURNED FROM ALINNA.
PRINCE KAIL!
PLEASE SEND A RESCUE FORCE TO ALINNA!
AND BRING PRINCESS YURI BACK HOME!

WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?
SHE WAS STILL IN THE RESIDENTIAL QUARTER IN ALINNA WHEN WE LEFT, BUT...
...WE FEAR BATTLE IS ABOUT TO BE JOINED THERE. SO PLEASE SEND YOUR ARMY...!
I'LL GO THERE!
ASSEMBLE THE SOLDIERS!
PLEASE WAIT, YOUR HIGHNESS.
ILBANI.
YOU STILL DON'T WANT ME TO GO TO ALINNA?
YES, HIGHNESS.

AS I'VE SAID MANY TIMES BEFORE...
...IF YOU DEPLOY YOUR TROOPS NOW, IT WILL DRIVE THIS COUNTRY INTO A CIVIL WAR.
YOU WILL BE MAKING AN IRREVERSIBLE MISTAKE IF YOU FALL INTO THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S TRAP AND DISQUALIFY YOURSELF FROM SUCCESSION TO THE THRONE.
AS THE CROWN PRINCE, YOU ALL BUT HOLD THE KING'S THRONE IN YOUR HANDS.
PLEASE STAY OUT OF THE AFFRAY FOR NOW!

GET OUT OF MY WAY, ILBANI!
AND LET SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPEN TO YURI?
WIP
WIP
...THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN MATCH ME WITH A SWORD.
IL... I KNOW YOU ARE A VERY INTELLIGENT MAN, BUT...
ILBANI!

IF YOU INSIST ON DEPLOYING YOUR TROOPS, I WILL JOIN NERGAL, THE GOD OF DEATH.
SEEING YOU ASSUME THE THRONE...
ILBANI!
...AND HELPING YOU BUILD AN IDEAL COUNTRY HAS BEEN MY DREAM.
IF I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE THAT HAPPEN, I NO LONGER HAVE ANY REASON TO LIVE.

KLOD
KLOD
KLOD
YES! AND YOU, PRINCESS YURI?
HADI! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
KLANK
KLINK

YOU'RE RIGHT.
THE HORSES ARE EXHAUSTED, TOO. IF WE DON'T STOP SOON...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WE'VE OUTRUN MOST OF THE SOLDIERS, BUT...
...'MOST' IS STILL NOT ALL!
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WE CAN...
THERE THEY ARE!
THERE'S ISHTAR!
YIKES! WE'RE CORNERED!
I FOUND HER!
HER HEAD IS MINE!

IN FRONT OF US IS THE RED RIVER!
BE CAREFUL, PRINCESS YURI!
TWANG
AH, THAT LOVELY HEAD...
!!
AAH!

PRINCESS YURI!
EEEYAAH!
KLUNK

SPLOOSH
I CAN'T BREATHE
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
I'M TOO TIRED...
...TO MOVE.
SOMEBODY...
...HELP ME!

I KNOW YOU CAN'T LEAVE HATTUSA, BUT,...!
PRINCE KAIL!
KLOD KLOD
BLUB
HELP...
...I CAN'T BREATHE.
WHAT?
PRINCESS YURI!
AH!
SPLOOSH

PRINCE KAIL!
GRAB

RAMSES!
KOFF
KOFF
RAMSES!
TH... THANK YOU!
TAKE ME BACK TO PRINCE KAIL...
WILL YOU PLEASE... TAKE ME TO HATTUSA?

YOU MUST BE KIDDING.
IF I WANT SOMETHING, I JUST SNATCH IT.
WHETHER IT IS A COUNTRY OR A WOMAN.
RAMSES!
I DIDN'T RESCUE YOU TO GIVE YOU BACK TO ANOTHER MAN.
I AM NOT A PRINCE WHO MINDS HIS MANNERS VERY WELL.

"IF I WANT SOMETHING, I JUST SNATCH IT."
"WHETHER IT IS A COUNTRY OR A WOMAN ...!?"
A COUNTRY ...? RAMSES!
ARE YOU SEEKING TO TAKE OVER THE HITTITE EMPIRE?
HMM?
DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE "WOMAN" PART?

YOU REALLY AREN'T LISTENING!
HEY, FORGET IT. THE HITTITE EMPIRE IS ALREADY IN TROUBLE WITH THE QUEEN DOWAGER TRYING TO SEIZE POWER!
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE HITTITE CROWN.
WHAT I'M AFTER IS DOMINION OVER MY OWN COUNTRY...
...EGYPT.

THE LATE KING...?!
THAT'S RIGHT. WHAT HAPPENED AFTER KING TUTANKHAMEN'S DEATH WAS...
IT MAKES ME SICK TO SEE THE CORRUPTION OF THE CURRENT EIGHTEENTH DYNASTY.
BUT THE WORST ARE THE PHARAOHS.
THE LATE KING WAS POISONED, AND HIS PREDECESSOR WAS IGNORED WHEN HE CALLED FOR REFORM. NEITHER OF THEM WERE FIT TO BE A KING.
THE PALACE IS CONTROLLED BY PRIESTS AND WOMEN WHO ARE BLINDED BY POWER AND GAUDY BAUBLES.

WHAT HAPPENED TO QUEEN ANKHESENA-MEN?
HEY, WHO IS THE EGYPTIAN PHARAOH NOW?
SHE REMARRIED.
AND HER HUSBAND IS THE CURRENT KING OF EGYPT.
HE WAS JUST AN OLD, INCOMPE-TENT, BUT HIGH-RANKING BUREAUCRAT AT THE PALACE.
USING HIS MONEY AND CONNECTIONS, HE OBTAINED THE THRONE AND A WIFE YOUNG ENOUGH TO BE HIS GRAND-CHILD.
THINKING OF HIM... WITH HER... MAKES MY SKIN CRAWL.
MONEY AND CONNECTIONS AREN'T PROPER QUALIFICATIONS FOR BECOMING KING. WHAT'S REQUIRED IS COMPETENCE!

A NATION DOESN'T JUST CONSIST OF ARISTOCRATS AND THE WEALTHY.
THERE ARE FARMERS AND WORKERS, TOO. AND THEY'RE ENTITLED TO LEAD PEACEFUL LIVES.
THERE-FORE, I WILL BECOME KING ONE DAY!
WHAT A KING NEEDS IS THE ABILITY TO BUILD A PROSPEROUS, PEACEFUL NATION.
AND I HAVE THAT ABILITY!

...THEY THINK ALIKE ABOUT NATION BUILDING.
HIS APPROACH IS DIFFERENT FROM PRINCE KAIL'S, BUT...
A MAN CAN'T RULE A COUNTRY ALONE.
THROUGHOUT HISTORY, THE WIVES AND MOTHERS OF KINGS HAVE PLAYED VITAL ROLES IN THE WIELDING OF POWER.
KLAK
CONSIDERING THAT, A KING'S WOMAN HAS TO BE OF THE SAME CALIBER AS HER MAN.
IT WOULD BE EVEN BETTER IF SHE COULD HELP ME ACCOMPLISH MY DREAM.
SO...
...I NEED A WOMAN WHO WON'T THWART MY AMBITIONS.
THE HITTITE EMPIRE IS GOING THROUGH A TROUBLED TIME, TOO. THAT'S WHY I NEED TO RETURN TO HATTUSA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
I'LL DISMOUNT WHEN WE REACH THE BANK.
SPLASH
SPLISH
I SEE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.
I HOPE YOU'LL FULFILL YOUR DREAM BACK IN EGYPT.
YOU AREN'T LISTENING TO ME, ARE YOU?

ARE... ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...
IF SHE'S HIS, ALL I CAN DO IS TO SNATCH HER FROM HIM.
...I SAW THAT A HITTITE PRINCE HAD FOUND ONE.
SPLISH-
SPLASH
I NEVER THOUGHT SUCH A WOMAN COULD EXIST, BUT THEN...
BRAY
AH... THE LIGHT FINALLY DAWNS, EH?
...ME?
I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THAT!
SPLASH
IT WAS BY ACCIDENT THAT I BECAME PRINCE KAIL'S CONCUBINE AND...
YOU... YOU ARE OVER-ESTIMATING ME!

AH!
WHAT...
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! WATCH IT, OR I'LL—
FORGET ABOUT BEING A CROWN PRINCE'S WOMAN.
I'LL MAKE YOU AN EGYPTIAN QUEEN.
GASP

ASLAN!
S... STOP KIDDING ME!
I'M GOING BACK TO HATTUSA.
Pretty basic move...
WHAT?
KAIL NEVER DID THIS TO YOU?
GRAB
AH!
I'VE BEEN PATIENTLY WAITING FOR YOU TO BECOME SEPARATED FROM THE CROWN PRINCE.
I'M NOT JOKING.
KLUNK
HEY.
MY HOMETOWN, MEMPHIS, IS A VERY NICE PLACE.
YOU'LL COME TO ACCEPT LIFE WITH ME THERE.
NO I WON'T! PUT ME DOWN!

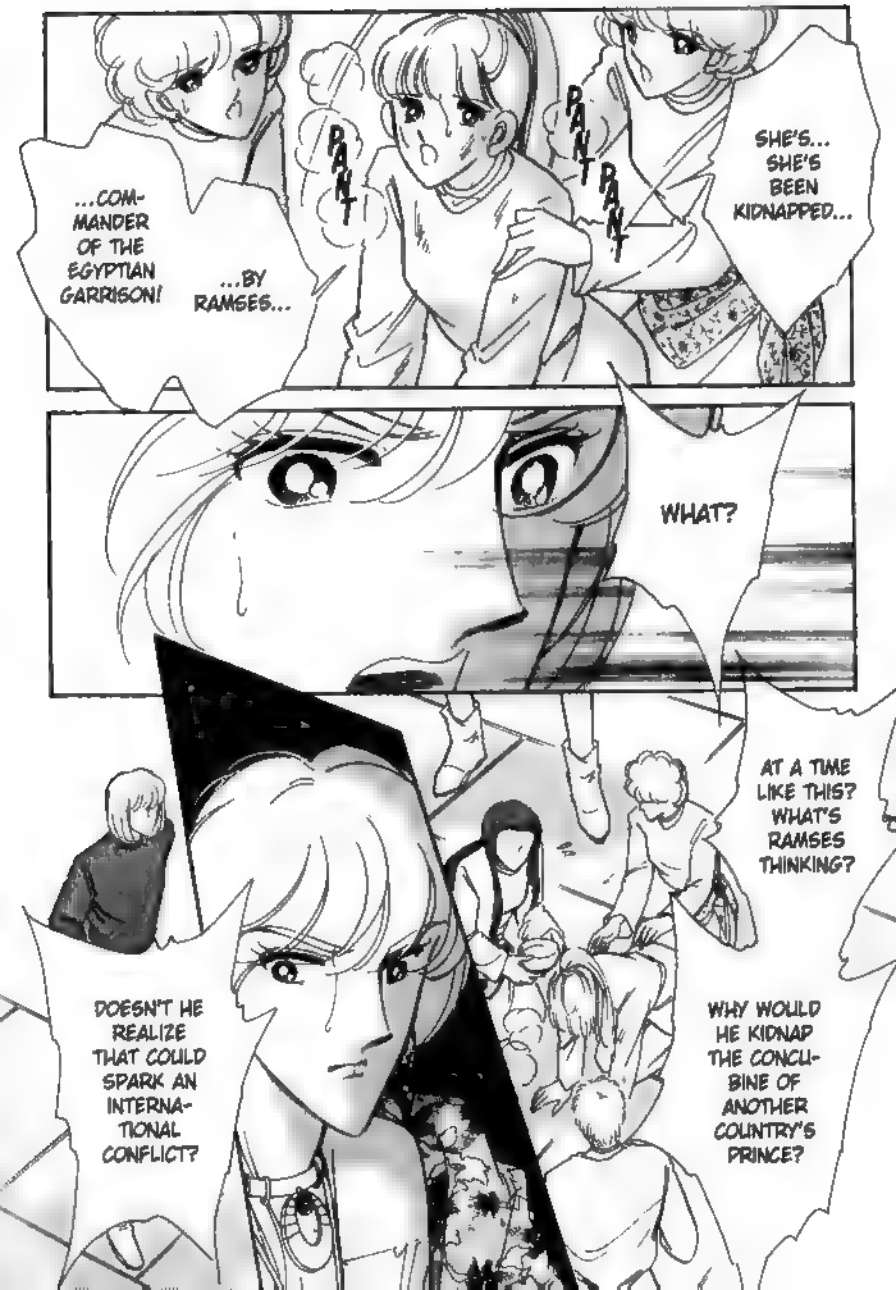
PRINCESS YURI!
KLOP
KLOP
KLOP
PRINCESS YURI!

HATTUSA
PRINCE KAIL HASN'T EATEN ANYTHING.
WELL, THAT'S NOT SURPRISING.
...I'M SURE HE'S LONGING TO GO TO ALINNA TO RESCUE PRINCESS YURI.
IF HE HOPES TO BECOME KING, IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR HIM TO STAY HERE, BUT...

ILBANI IS PLAYING THE STERN OVERSEER, PREVENTING HIS HIGHNESS FROM LEAVING, BUT...
I DON'T MIND THE ROLE, BUT...
...THIS ISN'T SOLVING OUR REAL PROBLEM.
ILBANI!
WHAT MUST WE DO TO ENSURE PRINCE KAIL'S ENTHRONE-MENT AND PRINCESS YURI'S SAFE RETURN?
WHAT SHALL WE DO, THEN?
WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING UNTIL THE KING'S ASSASSIN IS CAPTURED.
ONCE THAT'S DONE, THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S DEPLOYMENT OF TROOPS AT ALINNA WILL BE SEEN FOR THE RECKLESS ACT IT IS.
IT WILL THEN BE PROPER FOR PRINCE KAIL TO DISPATCH TROOPS TO DEAL WITH THE QUEEN'S FORCES.

HOW DO WE GET OUR HANDS ON HIM?
IT SOUNDS RIGHT, BUT...
...URHI, THE ASSASSIN, IS UNDER THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S PROTECTION.
WHAT IF I STEPPED FORWARD AND SAID I KILLED THE KING. IT WILL BUY YOU TIME TO RESCUE PRINCESS YURI...
DON'T YOU KNOW YOU'LL BE IMMEDIATELY EXECUTED IF YOU MAKE SUCH A CLAIM?
YOU CAN'T TAKE IT BACK LATER AND TRY TO SAY IT WAS JUST A PLOY.
...IN SOME WAY THAT WILL REASSURE THE PUBLIC.
THE WHOLE EMPIRE HAS BEEN SHAKEN BY THE KING'S MURDER. THE AUTHORITIES ARE DESPERATE TO ACT...
MORE-OVER, IF IT WEREN'T FOR THIS RATHER ENORMOUS DIFFI-CULTY...
...I WOULD HAVE ALREADY TRIED IT.

THEN, IS THERE NOTHING ...
...WE CAN DO UNTIL THE ASSASSIN IS CAPTURED?
HUSH
MY LORD!
MISS HADI HAS RETURNED FROM ALINNA!
WHERE'S THE PRINCE? WHERE IS PRINCE KAIL?
P... PRINCESS YURI HAS BEEN...
WHAT IS IT HADI?
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YURI?


PANT
PANT
PANT
SHE'S... SHE'S BEEN KIDNAPPED...
...BY RAMSES...
...COMMANDER OF THE EGYPTIAN GARRISON!
WHAT?
AT A TIME LIKE THIS? WHAT'S RAMSES THINKING?
WHY WOULD HE KIDNAP THE CONCUBINE OF ANOTHER COUNTRY'S PRINCE?
DOESN'T HE REALIZE THAT COULD SPARK AN INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT?

RAMSES.
I WAS WONDERING HOW THAT AMBITIOUS MAN WITH GLARING EYES COULD STAND TO...
...SIT AROUND HATTUSA, AWAY FROM HIS OWN COUNTRY, FOR SO LONG.
WAS IT BECAUSE OF YURI?

WHISK!
GET ME A HORSE, KIKKURI!
YES, SIR.
YOUR HIGHNESS!
OUT OF MY WAY!
NO ONE WILL STOP ME THIS TIME!

GASP
YURI IS IN THAT MAN'S ARMS?
I WILL NOT ALLOW THAT!

HER EYES AND LIPS...
...AND THAT SMOOTH SKIN...
I'LL ALLOW NO OTHER MAN TO TOUCH THEM!
I'M GOING!

I'LL GO WITH YOU, MY PRINCE!
PRINCE KAIL HAS LOST HIS PATIENCE.
WELL, HE'S NOT GOING WITHOUT HIS GUARDS. I'LL—
WAIT, KASH.
YOUR CHARIOT FORCE WILL DRAW TOO MUCH ATTENTION.
LET ME AND MY INFANTRY ACCOMPANY HIM.
ALL RIGHT!
TA-RUMP
TA-RUMP
TA-RUMP
TA-RUMP

...
PRINCE KAIL SHARED OUR VISION, AND HE ALSO SHARED OUR BELIEF THAT HE WOULD ONE DAY BE IN A POSITION TO TRANSFORM THIS VISION INTO A REALITY.
WAS IT JUST A DREAM AFTER ALL?
THOSE OF US WITH LOFTY ASPIRATIONS HAVE LONG DREAMT OF BUILDING AN IDEAL NATION.
WHO COULD IMAGINE OUR HOPES WOULD BE DASHED IN THIS WAY?

DON'T LET ANYONE KNOW THAT PRINCE KAIL HAS LEFT THE PALACE!
CER-TAINLY, SIR!
MAKE SURE NO ONE ELSE LEARNS ABOUT THIS!
THINGS ARE GETTING WORSE AND WORSE.
WHAT CAN WE DO?

I FEEL SO USELESS...
URSULA...
HADI AND HER SISTERS ARE RISKING THEIR LIVES FOR PRINCESS YURI.
WHAT SHOULD I DO, KASH?
KASH!
URSULA.
IF I HADN'T FALLEN INTO THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S TRAP...
I'M THE ONE WHO CAUSED ALL THIS!
BUT YOU KNOW, KASH!
...THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH ANY OF US CAN DO.

DON'T WORRY, URSULA.
BUT I...
NO ONE BLAMES YOU, LEAST OF ALL PRINCE KAIL AND PRINCESS YURI.
KASH!
WHY DON'T YOU PREPARE THE HOMECOMING FEAST FOR PRINCE KAIL AND PRINCESS YURI?
I KNOW IT'S NOT PROPER FOR US TO KISS UNDER THESE CIRCUM-STANCES, BUT...
...WE HAD TO POSTPONE OUR PLAN TO LIVE TOGETHER.
SO I GUESS WE CAN BE FORGIVEN.

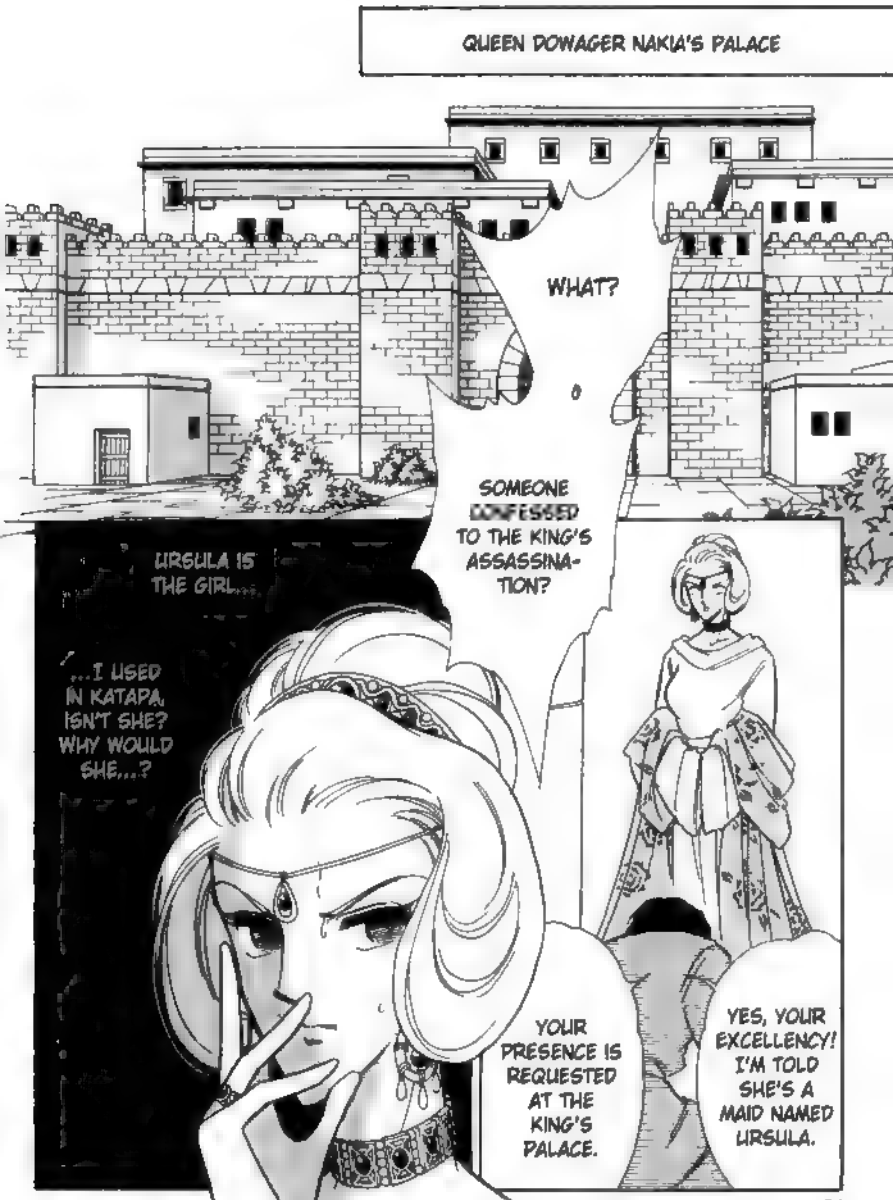
NO ONE BLAMES YOU, LEAST OF ALL PRINCE KAIL AND PRINCESS YURI.
THAT ONLY MAKES ME FEEL WORSE!

WHAT BUSINESS DOES A MAID HAVE HERE?
HALT!
"ONCE THE ASSASSIN IS CAPTURED..."
"...IT WILL THEN BE PROPER FOR PRINCE KAIL TO DISPATCH TROOPS TO DEAL WITH THE QUEEN'S FORCES..."
GULP

WOULD YOU PLEASE LET ME SPEAK TO THE SENATORS...?
I...I HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT HIS EXCELLENCY'S ASSASSINATION.
WE ARE VERY BUSY AT THE MOMENT. BE BRIEF.
GU
YOU'RE THE WOMAN WHO WANTED TO TALK TO US?

I...I AM HERE TO SAY...
I AM THE KING'S ASSASSIN!
...THAT IT WAS I...
...WHO KILLED HIS EXCELLENCY.

PRINCE KAIL'S PALACE
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
URSULA CONFESSED TO BEING THE KING'S ASSASSIN?
N-NO, IT CAN'T BE...!


QUEEN DOWAGER NAKIA'S PALACE
WHAT?
SOMEONE CONFESSED TO THE KING'S ASSASSINATION?
URSULA IS THE GIRL...
...I USED IN KATAPA. ISN'T SHE? WHY WOULD SHE...?
YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED AT THE KING'S PALACE.
YES, YOUR EXCELLENCY! I'M TOLD SHE'S A MAID NAMED URSULA.

AS YOU MAY ALREADY BE AWARE, I HAVE REQUESTED YOUR PRESENCE HERE...
YOUR EXCELLENCY QUEEN DOWAGER, YOUR HIGH-NESSES...
...AND HONORABLE SENATORS.
...TO QUESTION A SUSPECT IN THE MATTER OF HIS EXCELLENCY'S ASSASSI-NATION.

THUD
THIS IS THE WOMAN...
...WHO CLAIMS TO BE THE ASSASSIN.
KASH!
URSULA!
...KNOWING PRINCE KAIL WOULD BE ABLE TO DEPLOY HIS TROOPS ONCE THE ASSASSIN WAS IDENTIFIED.
I KNOW.
ILBANI...
SHE MUST HAVE TURNED HERSELF IN TO HELP PRINCE KAIL AND PRINCESS YURI...
SHE COULDN'T HAVE COMMITTED SUCH A CRIME!
URSULA DIDN'T DO IT!

HIS HIGHNESS THE CROWN PRINCE ISN'T HERE YET.
IS ANYTHING WRONG WITH HIM?
OH NO!
IF THE SENATORS LEARN THAT PRINCE KAIL HAS LEFT HIS PALACE...
...THINGS COULD GET MESSY.
I REGRET TO SAY HIS EXCELLENCY IS PRESENTLY ILL WITH A FEVER.
HOWEVER, BY HIS POWER OF ATTORNEY, I AM APPEARING AS HIS PROXY.
I SEE.
THEN WE WILL PROCEED WITH THE INVESTIGATION.

URSULA!
PUNISH ME, AND LET THE COUNTRY KNOW PEACE.
IT WAS AN UNFORGIVABLE ACT... MY GUILT IS UNBEARABLE.
I'LL ASK YOU AGAIN: IS IT TRUE THAT YOU MURDERED HIS EXCELLENCY?
YOUR NAME IS URSULA, RIGHT?
Y...YES.
SOMEONE ELSE IS NO DOUBT BEHIND IT.
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS GIRL IS CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT AN ASSASSINATION ON HER OWN.
THIS IS CERTAINLY AN INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT.
SHE'S THE CROWN PRINCE'S MAID, ISN'T SHE?
SH... SHE'S RIGHT.

...THE TRUTH.
TELL US...
HUH?
WHO ORDERED YOU TO COMMIT THIS HORRENDOUS CRIME?
THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S QUESTION IS REASON-ABLE.
THAT WITCH!
SHE'S NOW TRYING TO IMPLICATE PRINCE KAIL!
OH...YES.
I AM SORRY.
I WILL TELL YOU EVERYTHING.

...HAVE ME KILL HIS EXCELLENCY.
AAAA
IF YOU ARE IN DOUBT, PLEASE MAKE INQUIRIES IN THE TOWN OF KATAPA.
SHE'D HIRED ME BEFORE TO IMPERSONATE ISHTAR.
PRIEST URHI, THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S AIDE, GAVE ME THE ACTUAL ORDER.
AH
IT WAS...
...THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S SCHEME TO...
OOOH
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT WAS THE QUEEN DOWAGER?
WHAT?
THAT IS AN UTTER LIE!

WHAT ABOUT THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ISHTAR?
WAAH
SHE'S SAYING HER EXCELLENCY PLOTTED THE KING'S ASSASSINATION?
QUIET!
GENTLEMEN, QUIET!
YOUR EXCELLENCY QUEEN DOWAGER, PLEASE RESPOND TO THE MAID'S TESTIMONY!
WAAH
TH... THIS IS PREPOSTEROUS! I WON'T LISTEN TO SUCH DRIVEL!
I AM GOING HOME!
WAAH
YOUR EXCELLENCY, PLEASE WAIT!

AAAH
WAAH
WITHOUT PRINCE KAIL, WE CAN'T ORGANIZE ANYTHING.
TAKE THE WOMAN AWAY!
THAT'S DONE IT!
IT IS NOW SIMPLY TOO CHAOTIC TO CONTINUE!
URSULA!
ILBANI...
URSULA...

...I'LL BE PRAYING FOR PRINCESS YURI'S...
...SWIFT AND SAFE RETURN...
...TO HATTUSA.

WAAAH
THE MURDERER OF HIS EXCELLENCY ARNUWANDA II HAS BEEN ARRESTED!
THEY SAY THE ASSASSIN WAS A MAID AT THE ROYAL PALACE!
WAAAH
HOOOO

SAME HERE. AS WE ALL THOUGHT, ISHTAR IS INNOCENT.
AND I HEAR..
...THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S BEHIND THE WHOLE THING!
OF COURSE! IT'S SAID SHE SOUGHT EMPLOYMENT AT PRINCE KAIL'S PALACE IN ORDER TO SPY FOR THE QUEEN DOWAGER.
THE KILLER WILL BE EXECUTED, OF COURSE.
HUMPH! THAT GIRL AND THE QUEEN DOWAGER SHOULD *BOTH* GO TO THE SCAFFOLD!

WHAT NOW?
IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO?
WE'RE PLEASED THE QUEEN DOWAGER IS SUSPECTED OF COMPLICITY IN THE KING'S ASSASSINATION, BUT...
...THAT WON'T DO ANYTHING TO HELP URSULA. THE PEOPLE ARE CONVINCED SHE'S GUILTY, AND WILL DEMAND HER DEATH.
I'M SURE HIS EXCELLENCY WILL BE ABLE TO STRAIGHTEN THIS OUT!
I WILL INFORM PRINCE KAIL OF THIS.

DON'T TELL PRINCE KAIL ANYTHING ABOUT THIS.
YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS!
WE ALL KNOW SHE'S INNOCENT!
URSULA WILL BE EXECUTED IF WE DON'T TELL HIM!
...WITH NO WAY TO ACT AGAINST THE QUEEN DOWAGER.
SO LET'S INFORM...
BUT IT WILL ONLY BRING US BACK TO WHERE WE WERE...
...I'M SURE HE WILL RETURN AND PROVE URSULA'S INNOCENCE.
IF PRINCE KAIL LEARNS ABOUT THIS...

URSULA HAS SPENT HER LIFE TO GRANT US AN OPPORTUNITY TOO PRECIOUS TO SQUANDER.
WE MAY NOW PROCEED TO ASSASSINATE THE QUEEN DOWAGER...
...AND CLEAR THE WAY FOR PRINCE KAIL TO ASCEND THE THRONE.
GASP!

COME ON, YURI... OPEN YOUR MOUTH.
OPEN YOUR MOUTH.
SAY AH...
Mm... not bad...
YOU'LL WITHER AWAY IF YOU DON'T EAT.
YOU ARE SO TINY AND SKINNY TO BEGIN WITH. EAT.
THEN I COULD FEED MYSELF!
WHY DON'T YOU LINTIE ME, RAMSES?

...OR BECOMING YOUR WOMAN!
OF COURSE I WILL!
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GOING TO EGYPT...
You realized like mad getting tied up...
YOU'LL ONLY TRY TO ESCAPE, WON'T YOU?
PEOPLE SAY IT EXCITES A MAN MORE WHEN HE HAS TO TAME A WOMAN.
WELL, KEEP RESISTING.
THE TRIP MAY TAKE ABOUT 20 DAYS, SO YOU'D BETTER EAT TO MAINTAIN YOUR STAMINA.
IF WE MOVE FROM ONE SUCH VILLAGE TO ANOTHER, WE'LL REACH EGYPT WITHOUT BEING DETECTED BY YOUR PEOPLE.
THERE ARE EGYPTIANS IN MANY VILLAGES INSIDE THE HITTITE EMPIRE.

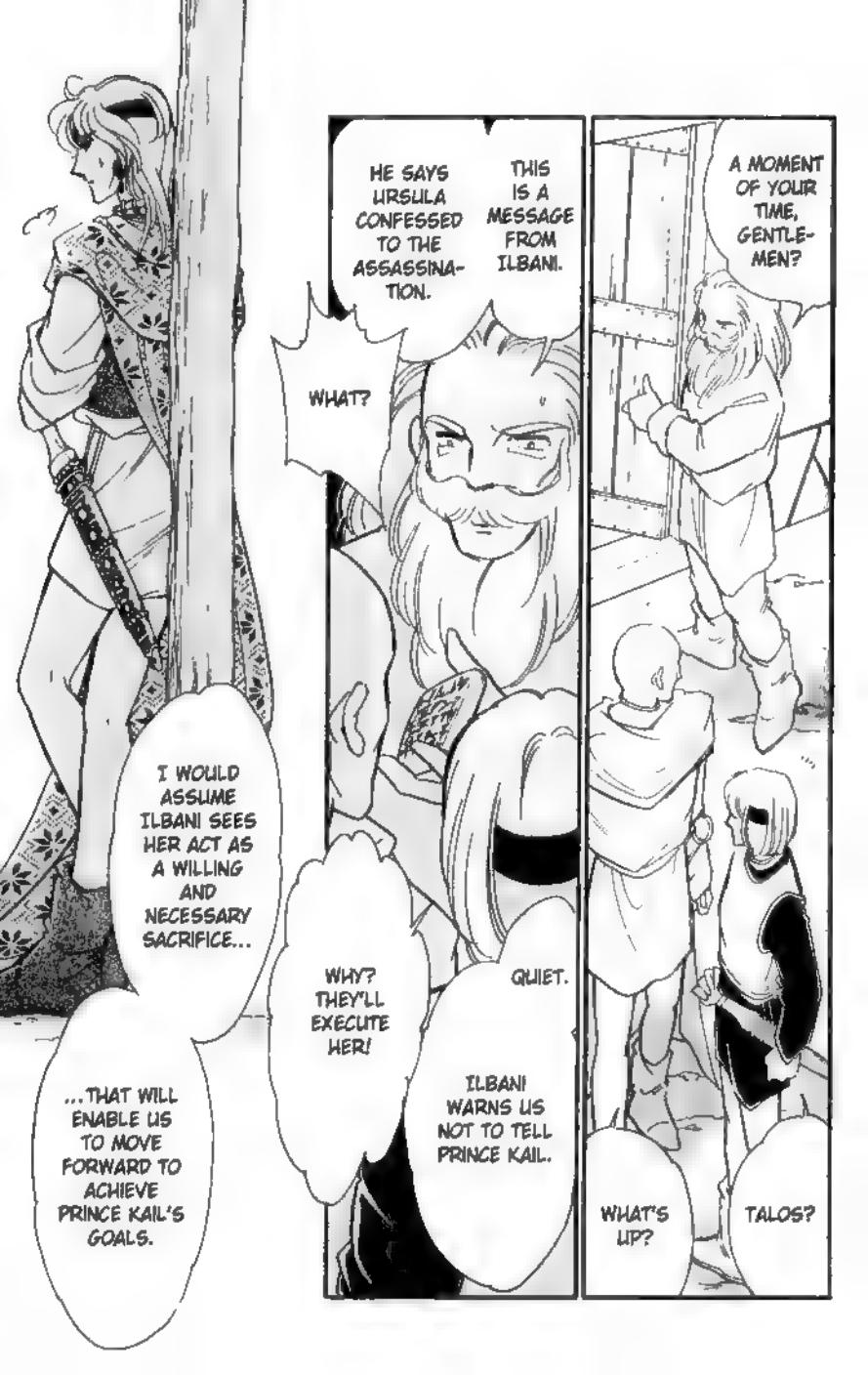
!
IF YOU WON'T BE SPOON-FED...
...HOW ABOUT EATING FROM MY MOUTH?
I WAS STUNNED TO LEARN THAT OUR BOSS HAD KIDNAPPED THE CROWN PRINCE'S CONCUBINE.
I'll bite your nose off next time!
Ouch! You bit me!
HEY!
THOSE ARE OUR CARRIER PIGEONS.

SOMETHING'S HAPPENED IN HATTUSA...?
WHAT?
IT MUST BE IMPORTANT IF THEY USED CARRIER PIGEONS.
BANG
EXCUSE ME, CHIEF COMMANDER!
A MESSAGE FROM HATTUSA HAS ARRIVED.
WHAT ?
IT SAYS THE KING'S ASSASSIN...
...A MAID, NAMED URSULA, HAS BEEN ARRESTED.

URSULA CAN'T BE THE ASSASSIN!
IT MUST BE A MISTAKE!
NO WAY IT'S HER!
...SHE MAY HAVE TURNED HERSELF IN SO THAT THE CROWN PRINCE WOULD BE FREE TO ACT.
WELL...
...IF THIS MAID IS LOYAL TO YOU...
RAMSES!
KAIL... FREE TO ACT? SHE DID IT FOR ME?

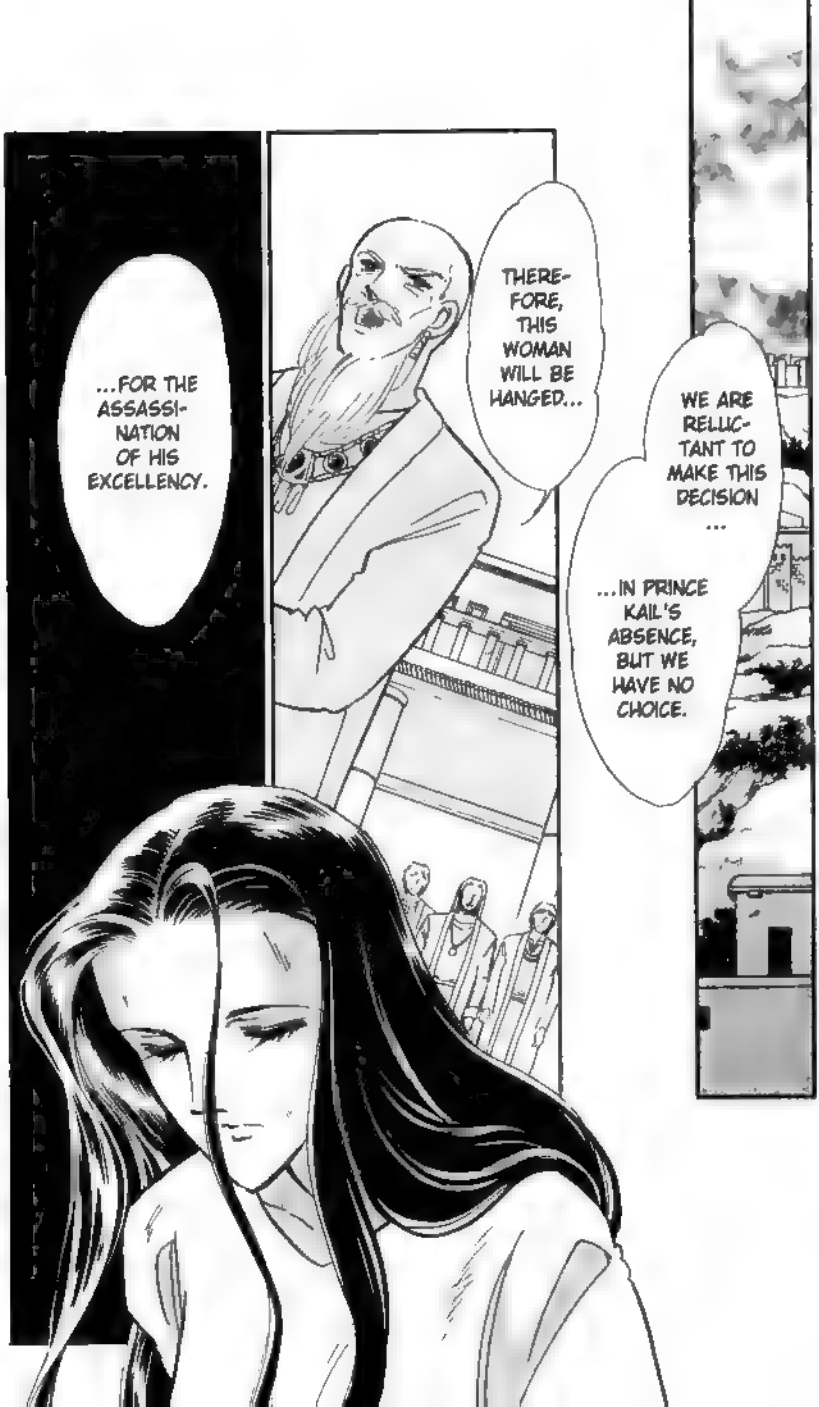
I MUST GO BACK...
...I MUST RETURN TO HATTUSA!
KREAK
RAMSES, PLEASE LET ME GO...
HUMPH
I KNOW... THERE'S NOTHING I COULD DO EVEN IF I WAS THERE.
I'M SURE HE'LL HAVE NO PROBLEM PROVING URSULA'S INNOCENCE.
PRINCE KAIL IS IN HATTUSA, HE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

ALINNA: HATTI TRIBE'S COLONY
HAS NO ONE FOUND YURI YET?
I'M.. I'M SORRY.
MANY OF THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S SOLDIERS ARE STILL HARRYING ALINNA.
WHICH WAY WAS RAMSES HEADED?
MY TROOPS COULD EASILY OVERPOWER HER FORCES IF THEY WERE HERE...
BLAST IT!


A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME, GENTLEMEN?
TALOS?
WHAT'S UP?
THIS IS A MESSAGE FROM ILBANI.
HE SAYS URSULA CONFESSED TO THE ASSASSINATION.
WHAT?
QUIET.
ILBANI WARNS US NOT TO TELL PRINCE KAIL.
WHY? THEY'LL EXECUTE HER!
I WOULD ASSUME ILBANI SEES HER ACT AS A WILLING AND NECESSARY SACRIFICE...
...THAT WILL ENABLE US TO MOVE FORWARD TO ACHIEVE PRINCE KAIL'S GOALS.

...
WHAT'S UP?
ANY NEWS FROM HATTUSA?
YOUR HIGHNESS!
SOME SENATORS ARE SQUABBLING A BIT...
NO, YOUR HIGHNESS. NOTHING IMPORTANT.
...AS THEY USUALLY DO.

KA
SH
IT'S NOTHING YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT NOW...
...YOUR HIGHNESS.


WE ARE RELUCTANT TO MAKE THIS DECISION ...
...IN PRINCE KAIL'S ABSENCE, BUT WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
THEREFORE, THIS WOMAN WILL BE HANGED...
...FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF HIS EXCELLENCY.

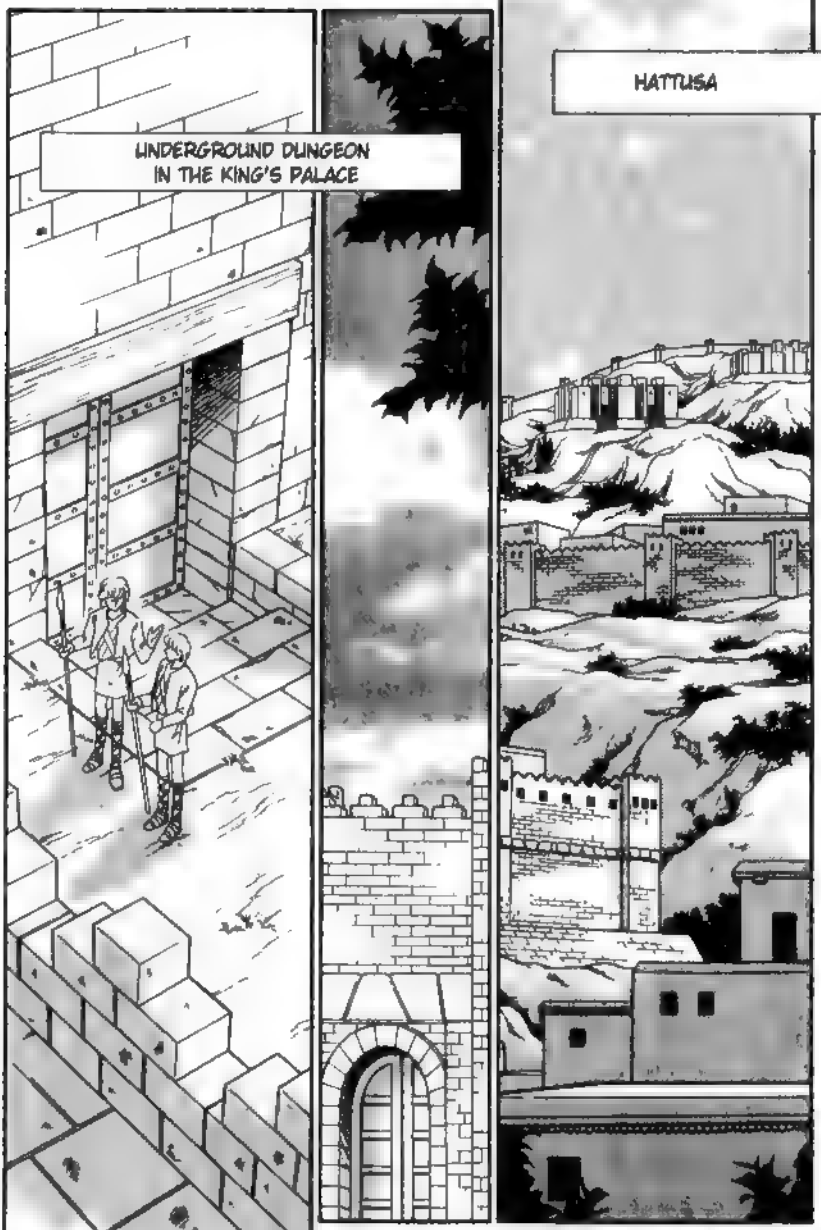
URSULA WILL BE FINE.
PRINCE KAL WILL MAKE SURE OF THAT.
I MUSTN'T WORRY.

NO, MUSTN'T WORRY...
...I KNOW PRINCE KAIL WILL PROVE HER INNOCENCE.
KLOP
I HAVE MY OWN PROBLEMS AT THE MOMENT.
KLOP
KLOP
BE CAREFUL. THE ROAD IS BUMPY.
WE HAVE TO STAY ON SIDE ROADS UNTIL WE LEAVE THE HITTITE EMPIRE.
KLOP
ONCE WE HIT THE SEA, WE'LL HAVE A PLEASANT VOYAGE...
...OVER THE MEDI-TERRANEAN AND DOWN THE RIVER NILE.

SNAP
WHINNY
THE ROPE BROKE!
I'M GOING TO ESCAPE!
ASLAN!
...

EEP!
WHIRR
KLOD
OW...
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
THUMP

IS TYING ME UP WITH A ROPE AND TAKING ME TO EGYPT AGAINST MY WILL THE ACT OF A GENTLEMAN?
Ouch...
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE UP?
I'VE BEEN DOING MY BEST TO ACT LIKE A GENTLEMAN. WHY DO YOU KEEP DEFYING ME?
GRAB
THAT'S GENTLEMANLY ENOUGH, ISN'T IT?
I'VE BEEN HOLDING BACK FROM...
...MAKING LOVE TO YOU, THOUGH NOTHING PREVENTS ME.


UNDERGROUND DUNGEON
IN THE KING'S PALACE
HATTUSA

KASH.. COMMANDER OF CHARIOTS!
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, SIR?
OH... YOU'RE...
HEY.
EH?
SHALL MY CHARIOTEERS STAY HOME WHEN THE NEXT WAR BREAKS OUT, THEN?
IS THAT SO?
W...WE CAN'T ALLOW IT, SIR.
SHE'S NOT TO SEE ANYONE BEFORE THIS EVENING'S EXECUTION.
LET ME SEE HER.
THIS IS WHERE THE KING'S ASSASSIN IS BEING HELD, RIGHT?
HUMPH!
Please hurry, before anyone notices..
Just for a moment, okay?

URSULA!
KASH?!
I'LL RE-LEASE YOU...
...AND WE'LL RUN AWAY TOGETHER.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, KASH?
NO! YOU'RE TOO VALUABLE TO PRINCE KAIL! DON'T DO THIS!
WE CAN LIVE IN A FARAWAY PLACE.
I'LL DO ANYTHING TO BE WITH YOU!
BUT YOU'RE VALUABLE TO ME!
KASH...

I'M GLAD...
...TO HEAR THAT.
URSULA ...
...IF YOU DON'T ESCAPE, YOU'LL DIE!
NO!
IF YOU ARE...
IF I AM EXECUTED AS THE KING'S ASSASSIN...
...PRINCE KAIL CAN OPENLY ACCUSE THE QUEEN DOWAGER OF HER CRIMES.
THE QUEEN DOWAGER TRIED TO FRAME PRINCESS YURI FOR THE ASSASSINATION, BUT IF I TAKE RESPONSIBILITY...
...THE QUEEN DOWAGER WILL HAVE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR KEEPING HER PRIVATE ARMY IN ALINNA.

I DREAMED OF BEING BURIED BESIDE YOU WHEN I DIE.
AND HAVING MANY BABIES WITH YOU...
...AND GROWING OLD WITH YOU.
OH, HOW I DREAMED OF LIVING WITH YOU, KASH.
...
BUT YOU'RE NOT THE ASSASSIN!

PRINCE KAIL WILL ASSUME THE THRONE OF THIS EMPIRE...
...AND PRINCESS YURI WILL STAND BESIDE HIM AS TAWANNANA, THE QUEEN OF THE EMPIRE. THAT'S THE DREAM.
THAT'S WHY I AM HERE! I'LL...
BUT I'VE...
...GOT A BIGGER DREAM THAN THAT.

GRAB
I WANT PRINCESS YURI TO BECOME TAWANANNA, TOO!
I KNOW THAT!
THE HITTITES WILL LIVE IN PEACE.
NO ONE WILL STARVE, OR HAVE REASON TO FEAR THE RAVAGES OF WAR.
UNDER THEIR RULE, THIS COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE WILL PROSPER.

IF YOU DO, KASH...
...IT MEANS WE SHARE THE SAME DREAM.
...
EVEN IF WE CAN'T BE TOGETHER, THAT DREAM WILL BIND US... FOREVER.

SNIP
URSULA!
AS PRINCESS YURI MIGHT SAY, THIS IS BIGGER THAN BOTH OF US.
I AM SORRY, KASH.

IT'S HOW IT MUST BE... I'M SORRY.
URSULA...
COMMANDER KASH, PLEASE COME BACK UP NOW.
THERE'LL BE A SHIFT CHANGE SOON, SIR.

YOU GUYS...
...ARE HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME, AREN'T YOU?
THUNK
HUH?
I...I... I'M NOT HIDING ANYTHING F...F... FROM YOU, SIR.
WH...WH... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, HIGHNESS?

YURI IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME, BUT...
...I DON'T WANT TO NEGLECT OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS.
SOMETHING HAPPENED IN HATTUSA, RIGHT?
KIKKURI, YOU WERE NEVER ANY GOOD AT KEEPING SECRETS FROM ME.
IT'S NOT JUST YOU.. TALOS AND MITTANAMWA ARE ALSO DOING THEIR BEST TO AVOID ME LATELY.
W... WELL...
SO TELL ME, KIKKURI!
I CAN'T HIDE IT FROM HIM ANYMORE...
W... WELL... UM...
YOUR HIGHNESS!
CROWN PRINCE KAIL!

PRINCESS YURI'S HORSE IS BACK!
BRAY
THIS HORSE...
PRINCE KAIL!
ASLAN IS BACK?
I... I HAVE NO IDEA, HIGHNESS.
ONLY THE HORSE? WHERE'S YURI?

PRINCE KAIL, IT MAY BE THAT HE KNOWS WHERE PRINCESS YURI IS...
WHAT'S THE BEAST SO EXCITED ABOUT?
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
WHINNY
ALL RIGHT, BRING ME A HORSE!
I'M GOING TO FOLLOW ASLAN!

HEY! THE EXECUTION'S TAKING PLACE SOON!
LET'S GO SEE WHAT THE KING'S ASSASSIN LOOKS LIKE.
WAS THE QUEEN DOWAGER WAS REALLY BEHIND IT ALL?
I'M SO GLAD THAT PRINCESS YURI'S INNOCENCE HAS BEEN PROVEN.

URSULA!
WHERE'S KASH?
WHY ISN'T KASH HERE? WHERE COULD HE BE?

ON THIS EXPEDITION YOU WILL CONFRONT THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S TROOPS IN THE NAME OF PRINCE KAIL.
ARE THE SOLDIERS READY TO LEAVE?
AS SOON AS THE EXECUTION IS OVER, YOU WILL SET OUT FOR ALINNA.

YOUNG WOMAN.
HAVE YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY BEFORE SENTENCE IS PASSED?

DO I TAKE IT YOU HAVE NOTHING TO SAY?
HANG ON UNTIL I CAN BRING HIM!
G... GIVE ME SOME TIME, URSULA.
I'LL GO FIND KASH!

I HAVE NO REGRETS. AS I CLOSE MY EYES, I CAN SEE...
...PRINCESS YURI WEARING THE QUEEN'S SUPREME CREST.
I AM READY, SIR.

VERY WELL.
FOR THE CRIME OF ASSASSI-NATING HIS EXCELLENCY KING ARNUWANDA II...
...THIS WOMAN SHALL PAY WITH HER LIFE.
NOW!
WHAM
WHIRR
THOOM
PM

THAT WRETCH DESERVES WHAT SHE'S RECEIVED!
HOORAY! JUSTICE IS SERVED!
RAAAAH!!
RAAAAH!!

DISPATCH THE TROOPS NOW!
I KEEP DREAMING... OF THAT WONDERFUL DAY...

THOUGH I WON'T BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH YOU...
..AS LONG AS WE SHARE THE SAME DREAM, THE SAME HOPE...
RAAAAAH!
RAAAAAH!
.. WE'LL BE TOGETHER FOREVER.
WOW!!
HURRAY!!

AS LONG AS
WE SHARE
THE SAME
DREAM...

IT'S NOT MUCH FARTHER, YURI..
...THEN WE'LL STOP FOR THE NIGHT.
W...WAIT.
JUST A MOMENT, RAMSES.

WHAT A BRIGHT SUNSET THAT IS!
IT'S SUCH AN EERIE RED...

I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF THAT BLOOD RED SKY!
BRRR
HO, YURI.
KLOP
KLOP
KLOP
CAN A MERE SUNSET MAKE YOU TREMBLE? HOW SWEET!
I...IN JAPAN...
...THERE IS A SAYING, "TWILIGHT INVITES DEVILS TO ARISE"!

AND I'M STILL RAMSES' PRISONER!
URSULA HAS BEEN FALSELY CHARGED WITH THE KING'S ASSASSI-NATION.
THE FATE OF THE COUNTRY RESTS ON WHETHER OR NOT PRINCE KAIL CAN ASSUME THE THRONE.
THE HITTITE EMPIRE DOESN'T HAVE A KING RIGHT NOW.
WHAT KIND OF DEVIL JUST PASSED THROUGH US, I WONDER?
...AND THOSE DEVILS SOW FALSITY AND CONFUSION.
...WHEN DUSK IS ABOUT TO PASS INTO NIGHT...
THEY SAY DEVILS ROAM THROUGH THE STREETS ...
TWILIGHT INVITES DEVILS TO ARISE?
YES.

ONE WONDERS IF THE SAYING MIGHT BE TRUE!
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING...
...YURI?

KLOD
KLOD
KLOD
NOTHING!
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
THIS ATTITUDE... YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION YOU'RE IN, DO YOU.
MY ATTITUDE IS ALSO NONE OF YOUR...
...

TWILIGHT INVITES DEVILS TO ARISE.
SOWING FALSITY AND CONFUSION, EH?
WHICH ONE OF US...
THERE MAY WELL BE TRUTH IN THAT.

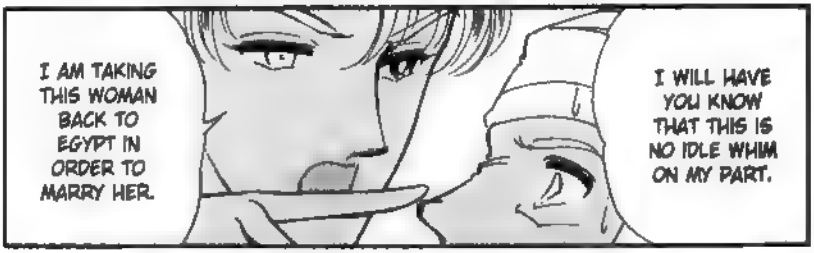
...HAS FELT THE TOUCH OF A DEVIL?
DON'T...

NO!
STOP IT!!
I'M AFRAID...
...MY PATIENCE IS AT AN END.
NO!
WE'LL MAKE HASTE TO THE NEXT EGYPTIAN COM-MUNITY.
DON'T STRUGGLE.
YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T GET AWAY FROM ME.

HA!
KLAK
TA-RUMP
TA-RUMP
TA-RUMP
PRINCE KAIL, HELP ME!

THUD
UFF!

WE'LL JUST STAY THE NIGHT, THEN LEAVE IN THE MORNING.
CALM DOWN, MAYOR.
I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE. DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
RAMSES! DID YOU KIDNAP THIS GIRL?


I AM TAKING THIS WOMAN BACK TO EGYPT IN ORDER TO MARRY HER.
I WILL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT THIS IS NO IDLE WHIM ON MY PART.

NO ONE IS TO DISTURB US ON OUR... HONEYMOON, GOT IT?

LET ME GO, YOU BRUTE!
I DON'T LIKE YOU! I HATE YOU!
YOU NEVER GIVE UP, DO YOU?
OOPS.
DASH
GRAB
SHE
HUMPH!
WHY DO I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS?
IF YOU WANT ME FOR POLITICAL REASONS, FINE. JUST DON'T TOUCH ME!
YOU TOLD ME YOU LIKE VOLUP-TUOUS WOMEN!
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, THEN STOP IT!

I BECAME INTERESTED IN YOU BECAUSE OF MY POLITICAL AMBITIONS...
...BUT I RATHER LIKE THE FEELING I GET FROM HOLDING YOU.
RUSTLE
YOUR SKIN IS AS SMOOTH AS A BABY'S.
AND YOU HAVE NO BODY ODOR.
FLINCH
THAT'S WHY YOU TAKE ON YOUR MAN'S SCENT SO NICELY.
PRINCE KAIL'S IS LONG GONE.
IT'S MY SCENT YOU CARRY NOW.

HE CAN'T LEAVE HATTUSA RIGHT NOW.
HE CAN'T SPARE A THOUGHT FOR ME!
PRINCE KAIL.
STOP IT!
PRINCE...
...HE MUST STAY THERE.
...TO SECURE THE THRONE AND SAVE URSULA...

I KNOW THAT!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
LET ME TELL YOU ONE THING...
...THE MORE A WOMAN RESISTS, THE MORE EXCITED A GUY GETS.

YOU CAN TAKE MY BODY...
GO AHEAD, THEN.
IF YOU FIND SATISFAC-TION THIS WAY, HAVE AT IT.
...BUT YOU WILL NEVER HAVE MY SOUL!
...
REMEM-BER..
...I SAID I MUST HAVE WHATEVER I WANT.

SNAP
AH!
FLINCH
STOP...
HE CAN OVER-POWER ME, BUT I'LL NEVER GIVE IN!
THESE LIPS... SO STRANGE...
...THESE FINGERS... SO ALIEN...

BANG
ZOOOO...
HELP ME, PRINCE KAIL!
KAIL CAN'T HELP ME, I KNOW THAT...
NO...
...BUT I'LL HOLD HIS MEMORY CLOSE!
STOP...

PRINCE KAIL!
DRAMATIC ENTRANCE, YOUR HIGHNESS.
GAAA!
RAMSES!
DRAW YOUR SWORD! YOU DIE NOW!

UNH!
fp
pp
A LARGE BOAST. CAN A PAMPERED ROYAL HAVE THE SKILL TO MATCH IT?
KLA
A
AA
K

...A SUPERB SWORDSMAN!
THIS MAN IS...
I'D BETTER...
THIS FELLOW HAS GREAT SKILL!
KLAZY
KLANK
KLANK
YOUR HIGHNESS!
PRINCE KAIL!
You rode so fast, Prince Kail.
We've just now caught up...
PRINCE KAIL!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

FEH!
SILLY OF ME TO THINK THE HITTITE CROWN PRINCE WOULD BE ALONE.
THE ODDS ARE NO LONGER IN MY FAVOR.
ONE-TO-ONE, I WOULD'VE WON. REMEMBER THAT.
SEE YOU LATER, YURI!
AFTER HIM!
DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS A BACK DOOR.
BANG

PRINCE KAIL? IS IT... REALLY YOU?
CLICK
FLAP

YURI...
...I'M SORRY I DIDN'T GET HERE SOONER.
PRINCE KAIL!
HE'S REALLY HERE! HE'S SAVED ME!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.
...HE CAME FOR ME...
EVEN AT THIS CRITICAL TIME...

HE CAME FOR ME!
HIC
HIC
HIC
...WHO'S GOING TO SAVE URSULA?
BUT... WAIT...
...IF HE'S HERE...

WERE YOU ABLE TO ESTABLISH HER INNOCENCE?
PRINCE KAIL...
...WHAT ABOUT URSULA?
WHINNY
CROWN PRINCE KAIL!
URSULA'S INNO-CENCE?
WHAT ARE YOU TA...
KASH?!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!
KLAK

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, KASH?
OUR TROOPS MUST STAY IN HATTUSA UNTIL THE KING'S ASSASSIN IS ARRESTED.
...
THAT MATTER HAS BEEN SETTLED, SIR.
GASP
WHAT?
YOU MAY NOW SET FORTH TO ALINNA TO SUPPRESS THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S TROOPS!
OUR SOLDIERS ARE ALREADY DEPLOYED AROUND ALINNA'S WALLS.
ALL THAT REMAINS IS FOR YOU TO TAKE COMMAND, HIGHNESS.

SO BLACK... SO LIKE...
KASH, THAT'S...
...HUMAN HAIR TIED AROUND YOUR HEAD, ISN'T IT?
NO, IT CAN'T BE...
...URSULA'S HAIR... CAN IT?
URSULA HAS...
...PAID FOR THE CRIME OF ASSASSI-NATING HIS EXCELLENCY ARNUWANDA II...

URSULA... EXECUTED?
SHE WAS EXECUTED...
...YESTERDAY EVENING.

YOU'RE LYING.
URSULA CAN'T HAVE BEEN EXECUTED.
YOU'RE LYING, AREN'T YOU, KASH?
I'M NOT LYING, PRINCESS YURI.
SHE WAS PUBLICLY EXECUTED...
...ON A PLAZA IN FRONT OF A SHRINE.

WHY?
WHY DIDN'T YOU HELP HER, KAIL?
YOU COULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING, YOU COULD HAVE STOPPED IT!
WHY DIDN'T YOU?
YURI...
THIS IS THE FIRST PRINCE KAIL HAS HEARD OF IT!
PRINCESS YURI!

SLAM
WE'RE SORRY, PRINCE K...
OUR APOLOGIES, PRINCE KAIL...
...BUT RAMSES GOT AWAY.
MITTAN-NAMWA! KIKKURI!
DOES THAT MEAN URSULA HAS BEEN..?
KASH! YOU'RE HERE?
OUR ARMY'S BEEN DISPATCHED TO ALINNA.

YOU GUYS...
...KNEW ABOUT IT, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU KNEW ABOUT URSULA'S EXECUTION, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU KNEW ABOUT IT...
...AND YOU DIDN'T TELL PRINCE KAIL!

URSULA...
SLUMP
OH MY GOD...
WAS ILBANI'S LETTER..
...ABOUT THIS?
Y... YES, SIR.
DID URSULA ...
...TURN HERSELF IN?
YES, SIR.
SHE DID IT SO YOUR HIGHNESS AND PRINCESS YURI WOULD BECOME OUR NATION'S RULERS.

URSULA!

WE RIDE FOR ALINNA AT ONCE!
THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S SOLDIERS MUST BE BROUGHT DOWN!
GRAB
PRINCE K...!
KIKKURI, BRING YURI'S HORSE HERE!
AH!
YES, SIR!

MITTAN-NAMWA!
THE MOMENT WE REACH ALINNA, YOUR INFANTRY WILL ATTACK!
OF COURSE, SIR!
WHY...?
KASH!
YOUR CHARIOTEERS WILL GUARD ALL EXITS!
YES, SIR!

YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS! MOVE OUT!
WHY...?

THEY ALL KNOW SHE WAS EXECUTED FOR A CRIME SHE DIDN'T COMMIT.
HOW CAN THEY ACCEPT THAT SO EASILY AND GO TO BATTLE?
AAAAA...
PRINCE KAIL IS BACK!
ALINNA
RAAA...
WHY DOES NO ONE SEEM TO CARE ABOUT URSULA?

THE KING'S ASSASSIN HAS BEEN EXECUTED!
THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S CLAIM THAT THE KING'S ASSASSIN IS TO BE FOUND IN ALINNA IS NO LONGER VALID!
STAND DOWN IMMEDIATELY! ANY WHO REFUSE WILL BE CONSIDERED INSURGENTS AND DEALT WITH ACCORDINGLY!
I AM KAIL MURSILI, AND I BEAR NEWS!
LISTEN TO ME, YOU SOLDIERS OF QUEEN DOWAGER NAKIA!

OH, NO!
IT'S THE CROWN PRINCE'S ARMY!
DROP YOUR SWORDS!
OBEY, AND YOU WILL LIVE!
HUH...
...NONE OF THEM WANT TO FIGHT...
OF COURSE NOT.
THEY KNOW THEY HAVE NO CHANCE AGAINST PRINCE KAIL'S FORCES.
NORMALLY, WE WOULDN'T USE OUR WHOLE ARMY TO TAKE CARE OF THIS SORT OF RABBLE.

WHY DID PRINCE KAIL HAVE TO COME HERE?
THEN WHY...
...DID URSULA HAVE TO DIE?
...KAIL HAD TO PERSONALLY SEE TO THE SUPPRESSION OF THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S SOLDIERS.
TO INSURE HIS ENTHRONE-MENT...
I HEARD YOU GREW UP IN A COUNTRY THAT'S FREE OF WAR.
I ENVY YOU THAT, BUT THAT'S ALSO WHY YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND.
BUT WHY...
...WHY DID URSULA HAVE TO SACRIFICE HER LIFE FOR THIS?

I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT...
PRINCE KAIL HAS A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY AT THIS JUNCTURE IN OUR COUNTRY'S FORTUNES.
I UNDERSTAND THAT.
...THAT PRINCE KAIL WILL WIN THROUGH AND BECOME OUR RULER.
EVERY DECENT PERSON IN OUR REALM DESPERATELY HOPES...
RAAAAAH AAAAAAAH

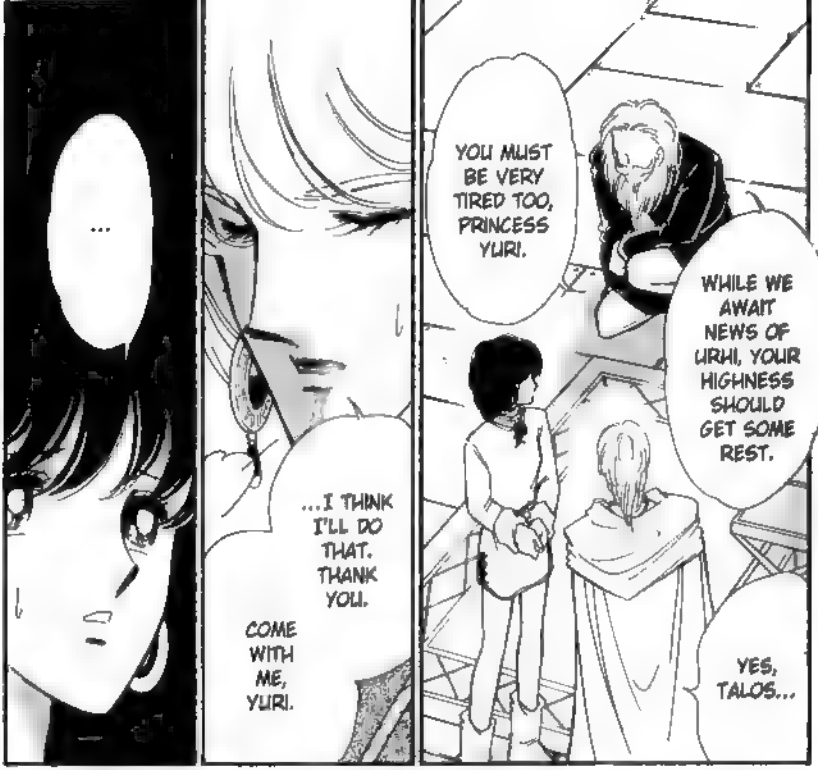
IT TOOK ONLY TWO AND HALF HOURS TO SUBDUE THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S PRIVATE ARMY...
...WHICH HAD SPENT THE PAST FEW DAYS OCCUPYING THE TOWN OF ALINNA.
PRINCE KAIL'S FORCES SUFFERED NO CASUALTIES.

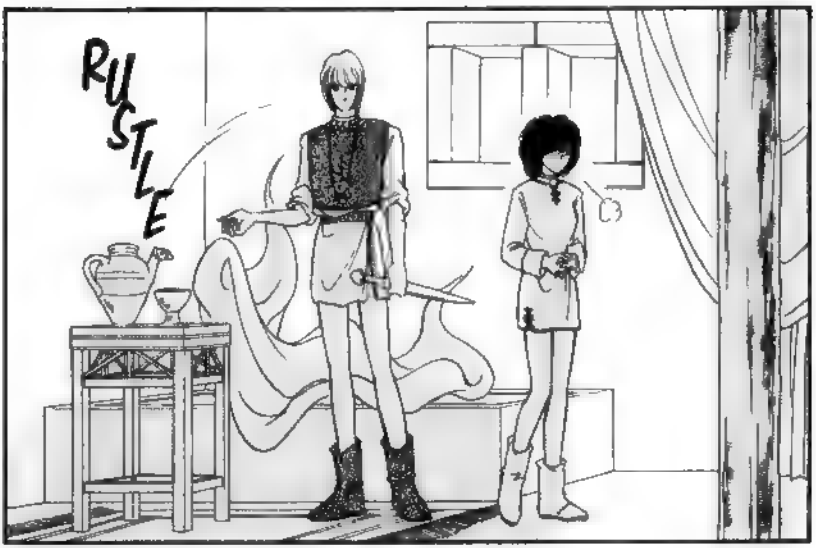
A LETTER FROM HATTUSA HAS JUST ARRIVED, SIR.
PRINCE KAIL!
A LETTER?
RAAAH
AAAAAH
LONG LIVE PRINCE KAIL!
HURRAY FOR THE CROWN PRINCE!
RAAAH
ONLY PRINCE KAIL COULD DO THIS.
OUR TOWN WILL BE PEACEFUL AGAIN, THANKS TO HIM.
RAAAH
THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S REIGN OF TERROR IS LIFTED!

YES, SIR.
IT SEEMS THE QUEEN DOWAGER HAS ISSUED AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT.
AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ...FROM NAKIA?
SMA
SH
READ IT, KIKKURI!
YES, SIR!

"IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT MY PRIVATE ARMY LAUNCHED AN ATTACK ON ALINNA. I WAS NOT AWARE OF THIS DISGRACEFUL REBELLIOUSNESS AND IN NO WAY CONDONE IT."
"IT WOULD SEEM THAT URHI SHARMA, A PRIEST ASSIGNED TO MY PALACE, MASTERMINDED THE RIOT."
"THEREFORE, I WILL MAKE NO OBJECTION TO ANY PUNISHMENT METED OUT TO THE PERPETRATORS." THAT'S ALL, SIR.
SHE'S CLAIMING TO HAVE NO INVOLVEMENT?
WHAT?
SHE ABANDONED URHI TO SAVE HERSELF!
WHAT A WOMAN!

DID YOU FIND URHI AMONG THE CAPTURED SOLDIERS?
NO, SIR.
WE'VE CHECKED ALL THE BODIES, BUT COULDN'T FIND HIM THERE, EITHER.
PRINCE KAIL.
URHI'S BADLY INJURED. HIS EYE WAS PIERCED BY AN ARROW.
AND I'M AFRAID HE'S NO LONGER IN ALINNA.
THEN WE...
HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN ESTABLISH THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S GUILT!
...WILL FIND HIM!
TAKE HIM ALIVE!


...
COME WITH ME, YURI.
...I THINK I'LL DO THAT. THANK YOU.
YOU MUST BE VERY TIRED TOO, PRINCESS YURI.
WHILE WE AWAIT NEWS OF URHI, YOUR HIGHNESS SHOULD GET SOME REST.
YES, TALOS...


RUSTLE

GRAB
YURI...
NO!
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR THIS.

I WAS DESPERATE TO BE WITH YOU TOO, PRINCE KAIL. BUT...
BUT...
SQUEEZE
L... LET ME GO!
YURI!
CAN'T YOU UNDER-STAND HOW AWFUL I'VE FELT SINCE I LET YOU GO OFF ALONE?
CAN'T YOU SEE HOW DESPERATELY I WANTED TO GET YOU BACK?

YOU'RE GOING TO BECOME KING...
...IN EXCHANGE FOR URSULA'S LIFE!
WHAT DID YOU WANT ME TO DO? BREAK DOWN IN TEARS?
SCREAM IN OUTRAGE WHEN I LEARNED OF URSULA'S DEATH?
N...NO... THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.

I BELIEVE NO ONE SHOULD SACRIFICE ANOTHER'S LIFE TO FULFILL HIS AMBITIONS.
BUT YOU MUST UNDER-STAND, THE LIFE I'VE CHOSEN ISN'T AN EASY ONE.
AND SOMETIMES I HAVE TO FACE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT SITUATIONS.
I KNOW...
...I KNOW YOU ARE DEEPLY HURT, TOO. I KNOW YOU'RE THE KIND OF MAN WHO'D RATHER SHED YOUR OWN BLOOD THAN HAVE HARM COME TO THOSE IN YOUR SERVICE.
THE LATE KING, YOUR FATHER, ONCE TOLD ME...

YOU ARE TOO GREAT A MAN FOR ONE WOMAN TO EMBRACE.
...IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO STAND BY YOU.
HE WAS RIGHT.
I LOVE YOU SO VERY MUCH, BUT...
IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE I WAS TRANSPORTED TO THIS WORLD. I'VE DONE ALL I CAN TO ADJUST TO THIS SOCIETY, BUT I'VE REACHED MY LIMIT.
I CAN'T STAND BY YOU.
I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT URSULA'S DEATH WAS NECESSARY.

GRAB
I CAN'T ACCEPT WHAT HAS HAPPENED!
...I CAN'T ACCEPT YOUR WAY!
DON'T...

PRINCE KAIL...
STOP IT...!
YURI!

PRINCE KAIL! OH...
...YOUR PARDON, SIR, BUT...
...WE'VE FOUND URHI!
GIVE US THE ORDER TO CAPTURE HIM!

GALLERY ILLUSTRATION